

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the certified English translation of the priority document JP 2003-079244, the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 1-21 are presented for further prosecution.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. New matter has not been added.

C. The Office Action

Claims 1-21 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Nagase (US 6,485,878) in view of Yamazaki (US 2003/0228533).

1. The priority date claimed by this application is prior to the US filing date of Yamazaki

The present application claims the priority of Japanese Application JP 2003-079244 (JP '244) filed on March 24, 2003.

This Japanese filing date is prior to the May 30, 2003 US filing date of Yamazaki.

In order to perfect the claim of priority, attached is a certified English language translation of the Japanese priority application JP '244. Claims 1-21 of the present application are supported in the following portions of JP '244:

Claim	JP '244	Claim	JP '244	Claim	JP '244
1	claim 1	8	claim 9	15	par. 31
2	claim 7	9	claim 9	16	par. 31
3	claim 8	10	claim 10	17	par. 67
4	par. 46	11	par. 30	18	claim 8
5	par. 38	12	par. 31	19	par. 46
6	par. 32	13	par. 34	20	par. 32
7	pars. 37-39	14	par. 34	21	pars. 37-39

Applicants respectfully submit that they have perfected their claim of priority, that the claimed invention is supported by JP '244, and that Yamazaki is no longer prior art. It is therefore believed that the rejection based on the combination of Nagase and Yamazaki is overcome.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing and the enclosed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain

this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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- Encl: 1) Certified English translation of the priority document
JP 2003-079244
2) Return receipt postcard